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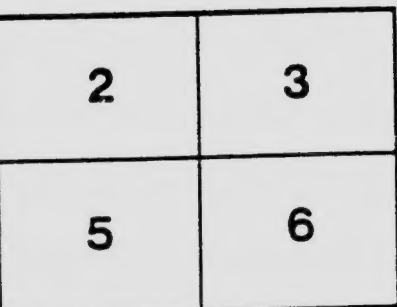
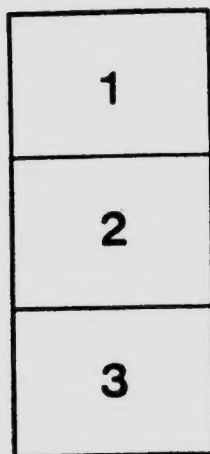
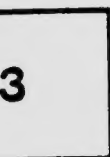
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HOMES RELIGION PAMPHLET No. 3

The Sunday School and Home Religion

Prepared by the Board of Sabbath
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The Sunday School and Home Religion

The Sunday School and the home need to work in closest co-operation if they are to secure the permanent results in character building in the lives of the growing boys and girls, that both alike earnestly desire. This co-operation in most places is not nearly as close to-day as it ought to be, or as it may be, and both Sunday School and home have been the losers thereby.

The following plan which can be carried out by any Sunday School in city, town or country will help greatly in establishing this close and sympathetic relationship which everyone recognizes as very desirable, and will at the same time greatly increase the efficiency of the Sunday School and of the religious training in the home.

I. The Home in which there are very little ones.

The little ones in the home just because of their helplessness have a right to special thought and care, and their mothers just because of their mother love are very desirous of providing for them the very best that can be given. Any person or organization therefore that can furnish real help to a mother in the religious nurture of her infant child is as a rule genuinely welcome in any home whatever.

The Sunday School has its opportunity here through the Cradle Roll Department.

In its original form this was simply a plan for keeping an accurate record of the names of all the infants in the congregation, remembering them all, each birthday, and seeking to have them all enrolled in the Sunday School as soon as they were old enough to attend. Even in this limited sphere it has proved to be of very great value in linking up to the church a large number of homes that might not have been reached in any other way.

More recently the Cradle Roll Department has entered into a far larger field of usefulness by undertaking to bring real help to mothers in the care of their infant children and especially in providing reliable practical suggestions for their religious instruction and training.

The visitor to any home where there are little children who is able to take with her the best stories including Bible stories, the best games, the best songs, the best bedtime prayers for the children is making at the same time the most welcome and the most helpful visit that any one could possibly make to that home.

The Cradle Roll Department has now accepted responsibility for doing all these things for the home. By loyal co-operation on the part of leaders in this department in the world-wide field, it is now possible to give to any home the very best help anywhere available, and in a form usable by any mother. Such a little book for example as Mrs. Mumford's "The Dawn of Religion in the Mind of a Child" is written in such simple language that

any one can understand and enjoy its message, while the author has such clear spiritual insight that every mother who reads this book will be wonderfully helped in her efforts to understand and guide her little one aright. This is but a sample of the rapidly increasing number of valuable helps for mothers in the home, now available through a well organized Cradle Roll Department.

II. The Home in which there are children from four to eight years of age.

The children of four and five years of age are called Beginners, and those of six, seven and eight are called Primaries, by the Sunday School. One very important part of the Sunday School programme for Beginners and Primaries is a Bible story each Sunday, told by the teacher to the children, after which each child is given an attractive leaflet containing this same story, to take home and to review at home for next Sunday. This applies equally whether the Uniform or the Graded lessons are being used for Beginners and Primaries, but the Graded Lessons are better suited to the needs of little ones.

For the complete success of this plan it is important that the parents of these children should be fully informed and in sympathetic co-operation with the teachers in their work. This can be secured with very little difficulty by an informal conference between the teachers and the mothers of these children at the beginning

of each quarter. At this meeting which would be held preferably in some conveniently situated home, the teacher would explain to the mothers just what she is planning to do for these children, in the Sunday School during the next three months. She would ask the mothers to help her by taking care of the leaflets which their children are given in the Sunday School, and to read these stories to them during the week from the leaflet and also from the Bible.

At some of these meetings the teacher would also explain whatever plan she is following for having the children learn Bible verses, hymns, suitable prayers, and any other work carried on in the Sunday School, and she would suggest ways in which the home could co-operate in all these plans.

In most cases, if not indeed in every case, the mothers will be delighted to know what the teacher is doing, and will gladly undertake to help in any way they can at home. In this way a practicable plan for the religious training of children at home can be very generally introduced, and carried out with every reasonable prospect of most encouraging results. At the same time the efficiency of the work of the Sunday School will be greatly increased through this closer co-operation with the home. And most important of all, the children who have followed this plan consistently will know most of the great Bible stories by heart by the time they are nine years of age.

III. The Home in which there are children nine to eleven years of age.

The boys and girls, nine, ten and eleven years of age are in the Junior Department in the Sunday School. At this age they are still fond of stories and a part of the Bible teaching in the Junior Department is in story form. But boys and girls of this age are also able to take up some definite independent studies, and their work in the Sunday School therefore provides for a little independent preparation work each week.

The Junior Scholars' Quarterly is arranged so that each scholar is expected to do a bit of work at home each day, and this is clearly indicated under the names, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, etc. This applies equally whether Uniform or Graded lessons are used, but in the Helps for Graded lessons the plan is worked out more fully and is adapted more exactly to the needs of Juniors.

This programme for Juniors can be carried out effectively only when there is close co-operation on the part of the Home and the Sunday School. This will require that the following steps be taken:

1. The teacher will meet with the parents of the boys and girls whom they teach and explain fully the plan of home work which is required. This should be done at the beginning of each quarter's lessons.

2. The teachers each Sunday will explain the work for the following week to their pupils in an attractive way.

3. The parents will undertake to see that their boys and girls do the required work at home each day. The total time required will not be more than from five to ten minutes each day.

4. The teacher each Sunday will check up carefully to see that the pupils have done the required work during the preceding week, and will find some suitable way of recognizing faithful work. It is fatal to the success of this plan if the teacher asks that home work be done and fails to find out whether or not it has been done.

The teacher can confidently expect that the great majority of parents will welcome such a conference as is here outlined, and that they will faithfully carry out their part of this programme. It demands some additional work on the part of the teachers but this will be much more than balanced by the increased efficiency of the class work in the Sunday School. At the same time, the boys and girls in these habit forming years will have formed the habit of reading their Bible and of doing a bit of independent study every day.

IV. The Home in which there are boys and girls twelve to seventeen years of age.

In the Sunday School, boys and girls twelve to fourteen are in the Intermediate and those fifteen to seventeen are in the Senior Department. This is the time in life when they are very fond of organizing themselves into Clubs, or Bands or Gangs

or Societies of various kinds according to the likes or dislikes of each group concerned.

The plan of the Sunday School is to provide for each group one effective organization adapted as far as possible to meet all their needs in the simplest way. The organized Sunday School classes in the Intermediate and Senior Departments have proved themselves to be quite suitable for this purpose, with one regular meeting each Sunday as a vital part of the Sunday School, and one additional meeting of the same class by itself or with other similar 'teen age classes, during the week for at least six or seven months of the year.

For boys this programme is known as the Canadian Standard Efficiency Training, and for girls as the Canadian Girls in Training.

The through-the-week meeting occupies about one hour, and provides very satisfactorily for the needs of those who take part both as to organization and as to suitable training, and renders quite unnecessary any further organizations or week evening meetings for teen age boys and girls.

An important feature of these meetings is a series of "Practical Talks" one each evening about things which teen age boys and girls ought to know and which can be given in such small groups as these more effectively than in any other way. A considerable number of these "Talks" have to do with various home relationships in the development of their four-fold life,

physically, intellectually religiously and socially. The following quite incomplete list will indicate some of these Talks:

"The value of health education",
"Rules of health to observe every day",
"What kind of books to read", "Things to make at home," "The value of daily Bible reading and prayer," "How to do the home work for the Sunday School," "Home relationships—father, mother, brothers, sisters," "Choosing a life work."

These Talks are given wherever possible by the men of the congregation to the boys, and by the women to the girls, and in this way the life of the boys and girls is linked up the more closely with the home life of the congregation. In addition, it is part of the programme that at least once a year there should be a Father and Son Social, when the men and the boys of the congregation would get together in an informal way, and also a similar meeting of mothers and daughters.

The entire plan is intended to relate the teen age boys and girls as closely and as helpfully as it is possible to do, to their own homes and their own fathers and mothers, at the time when a boy needs the help that a father can give him better than any one else, and when a girl needs the help that only a mother can give in the best way.

